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The EDITH *and* LORNE PIERCE
COLLECTION *of* CANADIANA

Queen's University at Kingston

To the Revd
George Romanes
from his friend
Cornwall H. Wrightman
April 28th 1849.

dup

ACCOUNT

OF A

PRESENTATION OF A TESTIMONIAL

TO THE

REVEREND Mr URQUHART,

OF CORNWALL,

FORMERLY MASTER OF THE

EASTERN DISTRICT SCHOOL,

BY HIS PUPILS.

KINGSTON.
PRINTED AT THE CHRONICLE AND NEWS OFFICE.
1849.

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It had long been the desire of many of the Pupils of the Reverend Hugh Urquhart, while Master of the Eastern District School, to present him with some token of their united affection and regard; and the opportunity of bringing the proposition under the notice of a goodly number of them, having occurred, during the holding of the Spring Assizes for 1848, at Cornwall, a meeting was then called—not to consider the propriety of so doing—but to take steps for carrying out that object.

at a meeting early in 1848

Mr Jacob Farrand Pringle was called upon to preside, and it was moved by Mr Arch. John Macdonell (of Greenfield), seconded by Mr Philip Matthew VanKoughnet, and carried unanimously:

"That it is our duty to express, in some marked manner, the gratitude we feel towards the Reverend Hugh Urquhart for the affectionate solicitude with which he superintended our education, and the kindly feelings with which he has continued to regard us since removed from his control: as well as the high esteem and regard which we entertained for him in every respect."

Mr James Dunbar Pringle then moved, se-

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conded by Mr WILLIAM ROSS, and it was carried:

"That there be a Committee appointed to carry out the object of the foregoing resolution, by collecting subscriptions from the Scholars at the Eastern District while under Mr Urquhart's mastership, and purchasing such articles of plate for presentation, as the subscriptions will warrant; and fixing the time for presentation, of which due notice shall be given to each subscriber—such Committee to consist of:

JACOB FARRAND PRINGLE, Esq., Cornwall,
PHILIP MATTHEW VANKOUGHNET, Esq., Toronto,
WILLIAM SUTHERLAND, Esq., M. D., Montreal,
ROBERT HAMILTON, Esq., Quebec,
ARCH. JOHN MACDONELL, Esq. (of Greenfield), Kingston,
WILLIAM WALBRIDGE MEYERS, Esq., River Trent,
JOHN S. MACDONALD, Esq., M. P.P., Cornwall,
GEORGE HAMILTON, Esq., Hawkesbury.

Mr JACOB FARRAND PRINGLE was appointed Treasurer, and Mr WILLIAM ROBERT CLINE Secretary to the Committee.

The gentlemen composing the Committee, having collected subscriptions to the amount of £150, authorized Mr ROBERT HAMILTON to make the necessary arrangements for the purchase of a Silver Tea Service and Salver in London; and the articles having arrived in the month of July last, the Committee was enabled to appoint the

18th of August, 1848, fe[illegible] day of presentation.

The Service and Salver were of the handsomest description. The following words were engraved on each article :—

PRESENTED
TO
THE REV. HUGH URQUHART, A. M.,
FORMERLY MASTER OF
THE EASTERN DISTRICT SCHOOL,
BY HIS PUPILS
AS A MARK OF THEIR RESPECT AND ESTEEM,
18TH JANUARY, 1848.

Several members of the Committee, and other subscribers, were enabled to meet at Cornwall on the day appointed, and proceeding to the residence of the Reverend Gentleman, presented him with the testimonial of their esteem, and with the following

ADDRESS :

Reverend and Honored Sir :—

Though many years have passed since the relations of Teacher and Pupil have ceased between us, the lapse of time has not only had the effect of strengthening our feelings of respect and esteem for you, and of convincing us that to your exertions as a Teacher, and to the excellent example you have always set before us as a man, and a Christian, we owe a great portion of the

success which has attended us in our various avocations in life. Entertaining these sentiments, we feel that it is a pleasing duty incumbent upon us, to mark in some manner worthy of you and ourselves, the high sense we have of the great and lasting benefits you have conferred upon us.

We indulge the hope that while the consciousness of high and important duties, diligently and faithfully performed, must ever be your best reward, you will not be the less gratified at receiving from your old pupils this token of the affection, esteem, and respect with which we can never cease to regard you.

In conclusion, we can only add that it is our earnest prayer that you may long be spared to your family and friends, and that the choicest blessings of Providence may ever be upon you and yours.

To which Mr URQUHART replied:

My much esteemed Friends:—I find myself but ill able to give suitable expression to my feelings at this moment.

While the sense of your generous kindness in this visit, and the object of it, fills me with gratitude, the sense of my own unworthiness tends greatly to abate the intensity of my pleasure.

Indeed, were I now called upon to estimate the value of the sentiments contained in your kind and affectionate Address, and of the token

of affection, esteem, and respect, with which you accompany them, by any peculiar merit of my own that called them forth, I should feel rather humbled than gratified; but when I regard both, as I am sure I am warranted in doing, as a spontaneous honorable expression of your appreciation of the blessings of a liberal education, and of a generous desire to distinguish even the humblest instrument that may have been employed in conferring these blessings, by some mark of your favor and esteem, I feel that I can sympathize with your feelings, and even partake in the pleasure you now experience in giving expression to them.

So far from disavowing that bond of gratitude which should bind ingenuous youth to their teachers, I honor it, and rejoice at every manifestation of it.

The office of the Teacher of youth has ever been regarded as useful and honorable, and has its rewards; it has also, as admitted on all hands, its toils, trials, and heavy responsibilities; but of all the rewards of his work, that alone which compensates a trust-worthy and right-minded teacher for all his toils and trials, is the reward which is to be found in the after well-being and well-doing of the scholar, and in the gratitude that survives all the ties of their mutual relation. It is then no small part of the gratification I now experience that the token of your gratitude and

regard comes to me a good many years after the mutual relations of Scholar and Teacher have ceased, and after your minds have been matured by the practical experience of the benefits you have received; and also, after I have had the unspeakable satisfaction of seeing not a few of you take places in your several professions and occupations which do you credit now, and give promise of still higher attainments, and all of you engaged in a career of present or future usefulness and honor.

The present occasion forces upon my memory the grateful recollection of a similar token of affection and regard received upwards of twenty years ago, on my separation from the first school I ever taught in Canada, known as *The Montreal Academical Institution*, when I had the pleasure of seeing assembled as interesting and promising a group of youths as I have ever seen assembled in one School—many of whom it is still my happiness to know, and reckon as attached friends, but many of whom, alas! are now numbered with the dead—having lived just long enough to leave with endeared and sorrowing parents an earnest of future eminence and success never to be realized.

Nor do I think it unsuitable to our present meeting to be reminded that this is not the first time that the Scholars of the School of Cornwall have distinguished themselves by their apprecia-

tion of the blessings of a sound education, and by their gratitude to their Teacher. And though removed from these our predecessors, by many years of separation, and perhaps still more by their superior attainments, yet I am sure that we can with pride look back to their example and pre-eminent distinction, and feel no common satisfaction in having our names associated with those of many, who by their talents and patriotism have reflected no ordinary honor on their country, and not a few of whom are now adorning the highest stations of honor in the land.

Having then the happiness to live under a Constitution which freely opens up the way of eminence and honor to all the deserving of all classes, I will have no greater joy than to hear and know that all my boys be found, in generous and virtuous emulation, striving for the first places in virtue, piety, and true patriotism. Next to the approbation of our Heavenly Father, and the consciousness of endeavoring to discharge all my duties with a single eye to His Glory, I may truly say, that the assurance of enjoying your friendship and esteem, will constitute one of the most valued elements in the remaining part of my life; and permit me now to say that "this Token of your affection, esteem and respect," which I receive with gratitude, and for which I offer you my heartfelt thanks, will be kept by me as the most valued and precious ornament of my house.

I thank you fervently for your earnest prayer for me and mine; and in conclusion let me offer my fervent prayers to Almighty God for you all, and for all whom you now represent—that He may pour upon you His best blessings, temporal, spiritual, and eternal, in your persons, in your several avocations, and in your domestic relations.

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